Appendix I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 1402 asked by Sri K. Aranganathan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 17th March 1955, page 894 supra.]

Preliminary.—The rice stemborer (*Schœnobins incestellusw*) is distributed in almost all the tropical and sub-tropical regions where rice is grown. It is prevalent in all the districts of the Madras State.

Eggs are laid in small masses in the leaf-blade and are covered with buff coloured hairs. The caterpillars hatch out in five or six days, bore the central shoot and feed on the tissue. The effect of internal damage is indicated by the withering of the central shoot in the case of young plants, while in later stages, it is evidenced by the white ears. Only one caterpillar is found inside a plant and the larval stage extends from four to five weeks. Pupation takes place inside the bored tunnel and the adult emerges out in about ten days.

General observations go to show that a major emergence of the adults takes place immediately after the harvest of the first crop. The moths lay their eggs on the seedlings of the succeeding crop and their progeny infest the young plants. The next brood attacks the crop in its grown up stage causing the characteristic white ears. While this is the general trend, there may be considerable over-lapping of the broods as well.

Steps taken to check, prevent and cure the pest.—The Government cannot obviously undertake measures entirely at their own cost for tackling the crop diseases in the fields of the ryots. The Government Agricultural department can only advise and indicate the methods and assist the ryots to check and cure the disease. The earliest methods tried to control stemborer were systematic elimination of the egg masses in the nurseries and a close cutting of crop and sometimes burning and flooding of the stubbles also. These measures not being very successful, attention was later concentrated on the use of the light trap. These traps did attract large number of the moths, most of them gravid females and the magnitude of the catches was proportionate to the intensity of the light. The range of attraction by an ordinary hurricane lantern was about 100 yards. The current recommendations consist of spraying BHC or DDT at the critical periods of the emergence to see that the young caterpillars hatching out of the eggs are affected by the residual effect of the spray. A mixture of DDT and BHC dusting at 20 lb. to seedlings after draining the field is also useful. The remedies are partial as after the insect bores into the stem, no relief is possible.

Forecast of pests and diseases including the paddy stemborer is furnished every week and the ryots in the areas affected are advised to take up prompt methods of control. In the case of widespread occurrences, the area is declared as pest-affected area by the Collector of the district and pesticides are sold to the ryots

17th March 1955]

at 50 per cent of the cost price. The district staff comprising of Plant Protection Assistants and the Agricultural Demonstrators undertake intensive touring of the pest-affected areas and offer suitable advice to the farmers in controlling the borer infestation. The required pesticides are stocked at the departmental depots. If early steps are taken, the incidence is reduced before the stems are bored by the insect.

Experiments conducted and the results thereof.—Experiments have been conducted by the Government Entomologist, Coimbatore, with various insecticides against the paddy stemborer. The chemicals under trial are DDT, BHC, Folidol, Ekatox 20, Isodrin and Endrin.

Cheapest and the most effective treatment suggested to the ryots.—Spraying with 50 per cent wettable BHC at 1 lb. in 16 gallons of water or dusting a mixture of 5 per cent DDT and 10 per cent BHC at 20 lb. per acre followed by a liberal application of Ammonium Sulphate to push up the growth has been recommended to the ryots, as this will improve, to a great extent even a badly-affected crop.

APPENDIX II.

[*Vide* answer to starred question No. 1407 asked by Sri N. K. Palanisamy at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 17th March 1955, page 899 *supra*.]

Statement showing the action taken on the memorandum submitted to the Minister (Agriculture) on 10th August 1954 by the Lignite Mines Labour Union, Neyveli.

Representations. (1)	*Action taken.* (2)
(1) Fifteen labourers were victimised because they were members of the labour Union ;	(1) This is not correct. The fact is that five carpenters were stopped for want of work but subsequently reinstated when there was work. One blacksmith, one watchman and eight others were charge sheeted and were discharged after full enquiry. However they were reinstated to give them another chance to improve themselves.
(2) The administration had compeled Police to interfere with the activities of the Union and harass the wokers.	(2) This is absolutely without any foundation.
(3) Wages should be fixed with reference to the nature of work, previous experience, etc., and the minimum wages for workers in the quarry should be fixed at Rs. 2 per day plus dearness allowance.	(3) Wages are fixed with reference to the nature of the work and capacity and qualifications of the workers.
(4) The workers should be granted permanent status.	(4) The Project is purely temporary and grant of permanent status does not arise.
(5) Leave facilities should be granted to the workers.	(5) Leave is granted according to the standing rules framed for the Project.
(6) Free housing and medical assistance should be provided to the workers.	(6) Housing facilities, as far as possible are given. Free medical facilties have also been provided. There is a whole time doctor for the Project.